

**WAC 246-976-935 Emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account.**

RCW 70.168.040 establishes the emergency medical services and trauma care system trust account. With the advice of the EMS/TC steering committee, the department will develop a method to budget and distribute funds in the trust account. The department may use an injury severity score to define a major trauma patient. Initially, the method and budget will be based on the department's *Trauma Care Cost Reimbursement Study, final report (October 1991)*. The committee and the department will review the method and the budget at least every two years.

(1) Definitions: The following phrases used in this section mean:

- (a) "Needs grant" is a trust account payment that is based on a demonstrated need to develop and maintain service that meets the trauma care standards of chapter 70.168 RCW and this chapter. Needs grants are awarded to verified trauma care ambulance or aid services. Services must be able to show that they have looked for other resources without success before they will be considered for a needs grant.
- (b) "Participation grant" refers to a trust account payment designed to compensate the recipient for participation in the state's comprehensive trauma care system. These grants are intended as a tool for assuring access to trauma care. Participation grants are awarded to:
  - (i) Verified trauma care ambulance or aid services;
  - (ii) Designated trauma care services; and
  - (iii) Designated trauma rehabilitation services.

(2) The department will distribute trust account funds to:

- (a) Verified trauma care ambulance and aid services;
- (b) Designated trauma care services:
  - (i) Levels I-V general; and
  - (ii) Levels I-III pediatric;
- (c) Designated trauma rehabilitation services:
  - (i) Levels I-III; and
  - (ii) Level I-pediatric.

(3) The department's distribution method for verified trauma care ambulance and aid services will include at least:

- (a) Participation grants, which will be awarded once a year to services that comply with verification standards;
- (b) Needs grants, based on the service's ability to meet the standards of chapter 70.168 RCW and chapter 246-976 WAC (this chapter). The department may consider:
  - (i) Level of service (BLS, ILS, ALS);
  - (ii) Type of service (aid or ambulance);
  - (iii) Response area (rural, suburban, urban, wilderness);
  - (iv) Volume of service;
  - (v) Other factors that relate to trauma care;

(4) The department's distribution method for designated trauma care services will include:

- (a) Participation grants to levels I-V general and I-III pediatric, which will be awarded once a year only to services that comply with designation standards. The department will review the compliance requirements annually. The department may consider:
  - (i) Level of designation;
  - (ii) Service area (rural, suburban, urban, wilderness);
  - (iii) Volume of service;
  - (iv) The percentage of uncompensated major trauma care;
  - (v) Other factors that relate to trauma care;
- (b) Trauma care grants, which will be awarded once a year to level I-III designated acute trauma services to subsidize uncompensated trauma care costs. To be eligible for the grants, trauma services must comply with Washington state's DOH trauma registry requirements per WAC 246-976-420 through 246-976-430 including submission of complete financial data and injury coding data. The grants will be calculated by multiplying a hospital's bad debt and charity care ratio times the sum of injury severity scores (ISS) for a specific period. The results for all eligible trauma services are summed, and each trauma service will receive a proportionate share of the available uncompensated trauma care grant allocation based on their percentage of the overall total. The bad debt and charity care ratio is calculated by summing a hospital's bad debt and charity care figures divided by the hospital's total patient revenue for the same period. These figures are from annual financial data reported to the department per chapters 246-453 and 246-454 WAC. Injury severity scores are extracted from trauma registry data for cases that:
  - (i) Meet the trauma registry inclusion criteria per WAC 246-976-420; and
  - (ii) Are admitted with an ISS of thirteen or greater for adults, nine or greater for pediatric patients less than fifteen years of age, or trauma patients received in transfer regardless of the ISS.
- (c) Trauma care grants, which will be awarded once a year to designated acute trauma services levels IV, V, and/or critical access hospitals (CAH) to subsidize their costs for providing care to the trauma patients, and for stabilizing and transferring major trauma patients. The individual grant amounts are based on designation level.

(5) The department may issue grants to DOH-certified medical program directors (MPD) for their role in the EMS/TCS as described in WAC 246-976-920.

(6) The department's distribution method for designated trauma rehabilitation services, levels I-III and I-pediatric will include at least:

Participation grants, which will be awarded once a year only to services that comply with designation standards. The department will review the compliance requirements annually. The department may consider:

- (a) Level of designation;
- (b) Volume of service;
- (c) Other factors that relate to trauma care